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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|-----------------|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 09/911,041 | 07/23/2001 | Christopher R. Hall | 1038.002 | 3726 |

22186 7590 09/21/2004

MENDELSON AND ASSOCIATES PC
1515 MARKET STREET
SUITE 715
PHILADELPHIA, PA 19102

EXAMINER

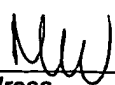
KRAMER, JAMES A

| ART UNIT | PAPER NUMBER |
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3627

DATE MAILED: 09/21/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

| | | | |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------|---|
| Office Action Summary | Application No. 09/911,041 | Applicant(s) HALL ET AL. | |
| | Examiner James A. Kramer | Art Unit 3627 |  |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-27 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-27 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Walker et al.

Walker et al. teaches a method and apparatus for a cryptographically-assisted commercial network system designed to facilitate and support expert-based commerce. Specifically, the invention of Walker et al. is an expert matching method and apparatus for managing communications between an expert having particular qualifications and an end user seeking a solution to an expert request (abstract).

In one embodiment, Walker et al. teaches a synchronous communication system. In particular, the user can request a synchronous communication channel when making an initial end user request using an interactive selection embodiment. Examiner notes that this represents a system that receives a communication from a user and queries that user for information regarding the communication (e.g. whether the user wished a synchronous or asynchronous communication), receives information from the user in response to the query and determines whether the communication is pertinent or not. Examiner notes that in this case Applicant defines pertinent as establishing real-time communication and non-pertinent as thus establishing non-real-time. Thus Walker et al.'s determination of synchronous and/or asynchronous communication represents determining whether the communication is pertinent or not.

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Walker et al. further teaches anonymous transactions, in particular that the invention provides for anonymity of both end users and experts. Such anonymity is accomplished by eliminating all references to the names of the individuals for all transactions (e.g. column 33; lines 30-31).

Walker et al. further teaches when a user submits a request, the request includes criteria. This criteria is used by the central controller to route end user request to experts in order to meet the criteria (column 17; lines 15-35). Examiner notes that this teaching represents the system of Walker et al. parsing the user request into one or more parsed terms based on the criteria submitted by the user and then comparing/searching based on the these parsed terms. (also reference column 18; lines 50-65).

Walker et al. also teaches within the system ranking the experts (e.g. column 14; lines 25-41). Examiner notes that this represents generating a roster of qualified representatives from most qualified to least qualified.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

U.S. Patent number 6,512,013 to Stephanou teaching a system and method for providing expert referral over a network with real time interaction with customers.

U.S. Patent number 6,223,165 to Lauffer teaching a method and apparatus to connect consumer to expert.

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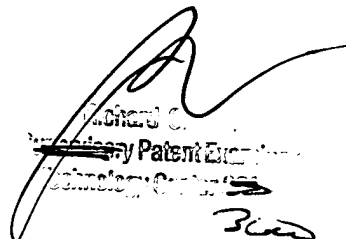
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to James A. Kramer whose telephone number is (703) 305-5241. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday (8AM - 5PM).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Richard Chilcot can be reached on (703) 305-4716. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

James A. Kramer
Examiner
Art Unit 3627

jak



James A. Kramer
Examiner
Art Unit 3627